

Meeting Date: July 19, 2007

Agenda Item No. 9

Agenda Item: Mule Deer Management Plan Update

Approved by: ____

Prepared by: Randy Smith/Brad Compton

Background:

In 2006 the Department began revising the State Mule Deer Management Plan. Central to this revision is a statewide mule deer hunter survey conducted by the University of Idaho. Results from the public survey are being used to establish statewide direction for mule deer management.

A multi-disciplinary Department team has reviewed results from the hunter survey and drafted broad mule deer management goals that will be used to develop proposed plan objectives and management actions.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Species management plans provide overall management direction. Although plans do not require rule making, they do incorporate Commission policy and direction.

Public Involvement Process:

The statewide mule deer hunter survey provided the initial opportunity for public involvement. Additionally, the Department will use regional sounding boards ('focus groups'), public meetings, print media, internet, informal contacts, and Commission public hearings to provide continuous opportunities for public involvement.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff will provide a review of the draft statewide management goals. Commission endorsement, and further direction, is requested.

Justification:

This agenda item is to provide the Commission with an update on the plan revision process, and solicit input on the draft management goals.